

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10

FDRE-00 AID-05 SAJ-01 /074 W
----- 056805

O R 091630Z APR 75 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8248

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, VN

SUBJECT: GREEK RECONGITION OF NORTH VIETNAM

1. DCM WAS REQUESTED TO MEET THIS MORNING (APRIL 9) WITH GOEROG MAZARAKIS, HEAD OF THE MFA'S FIRST POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, WHO INFORMED DCM THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE NORTH VIETNAM AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO THIS EFFECT WOULD BE ISSUED APRIL 16 AT 0600 GMT. MAZARAKIS SAID THAT DRV HAD RAISED POSSIBILITY OF RECOGNITION "SEVERAL MONTHS AGO" IN AN EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITAL. EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BY GREEK AMBASSADOR IN PEKING WITH HIS DRV OPPOSITE NUMBER. THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE ON APRIL 16 WOULD BE CONFINED TO A STATEMENT THAT GOG AND DRV WERE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS OF APRIL 15 AND WOULD EVENTUALLY EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS. MAZARAKIS SAID THAT IN DUE COURSE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN PEKING WOULD BE ACCREDITED TO HANOI BUT HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD HAPPEN IN NEAR FUTURE. SIMILARLY THERE HAD BEEN NO REPEAT NO DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING
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DRV PRESENCE IN ATHENS.

2. DCM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND CONCERN THAT GOG WOULD PICK THE PRESENT MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE HANOI. THE TIMING COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WORSE AND GOG ACTION WOULD APPEAR TO CONDONE MASSIVE AND FLAGRANT NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATION OF THE 1973 PARIS ACCORDS. THE DECISION WAS GREECE'S TO MAKE BUT DCM SERIOUSLY QUESTIONED WISDOM OF TAKING THIS SETP AT TIME WHEN NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE LAUNCHING FULL SCALE OFFENSIVE AGAINST GVN WITH WHICH GOG HAD PRIOR CORDIAL RELATIONS. HE ASKED MAZARAKIS WHETHER THE DECISION MIGHT STILL BE RECONSIDERED.

3. MAZARAKIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TIMING WAS "UNFORTUNATE" AND SAID THAT TWO WEEKS AGO THE GOG HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO DEFERRING QUESTION. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED HOWEVER AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL THAT CONTACTS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD GONE TOO FAR TO JUSTIFY POSTPONEMENT. MAZARAKIS BELIEVED THEREFORE THAT DECISION TO RECOGNIZE DRV WAS FINAL AND REPEAT NOT SUBJECT TO RECONSIDERATION.

4. DCM ASKED WHETHER DRV HAD RAISED QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING PRG. MAZARAKIS REPLIED NEGATIVELY AND SAID THAT GOG WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT MODIFY ITS POSITION THAT GVN WAS ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET NAM. NOTING THAT MADDME BINH HAD RECENTLY VISITED CYPRUS, DCM ASKED WHETHER GOG HAD RECEIVED ANY FEELERS THROUGH CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT OR GREEK AMBASSADOR NICOSIA. MAZARAKIS AGAIN REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE AND REPEATED THAT GOG ACTION RELATED ONLY TO NORTH VIET NAM AND HAD NO REPEAT NO OTHER IMPLICATIONS. HE OBSERVED THAT GOG ACTION WAS PART OF A BROADER PROCESS OF INCREASING GREEK DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND THAT GOG WOULD ALSO ANNOUNCE ON APRIL 16 INTENTION TO ACCREDIT GREEK AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW TO ULAN BATOR.

5. DCM SAID HE BELIEVED GREEK DEICSION WOULD BE DISTURBING NOT ONLY IN WASHINGTON BUT IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. HE ASKED MAZARAKIS WHETHER GREEK GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATED TRADE OR OTHER RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET NAM. MAZARAKIS DENIED THAT SUCH STEPS WERE CONTEMPLATED.
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THE DCM SAID THAT GOG SHOULD FAMILIARIZE ITSELF WITH SECTION 620(N) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT SINCE, IF TRADE WITH NORTH VIET NAM WERE CONTEMPLATED, THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. CREDITS AND/OR ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE COULD BE JEOPARDIZED.

6. COMMENT. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOG INTENDS TO TRADE WITH NORTH VIET NAM BUT WOULD

APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH TRADE, IF IT
OCCURRED, WOULD AFFECT GREEK FMS ELIGIBILITY AS
WELL AS ITS ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS OR CREDITS.
KUBISCH

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NNN

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